## THE HOUGH LETTERS

1857-1862 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Copies of letters written by Sylvanus Hough from Lafayette to his son, Orlando, in Ohio advising him on coming with his mother to join Sylvanus in Lafayette, 1861.

Transcripts of letters of his marriage proposal from Orlando Hough and Emmalene Bassett before they came to Lafayette, 1857-1861.

Transcripts of letters written by Orlando Hough of Lafayette and Emmalene Bassett of Gowanda, New York., 1862.

Donor Robert Hough, Orinda, 1978 Great grandson of Orlando Hough.

## HOUGH FAMILY

Robert Hough, 133 Meadow Lane, Orinda, California

Sylvanus Hough (father of Orlando), great great grandfather.

Orlando Hough, great grandfather.

Frank Hough (son of Orlando), grandfather.

Harold Hough, father of Robert.

Carrie Hough Van Meter, great aunt, (daughter of Orlando).

Houstons Runch March 24) 1861 My Dear Sans If necessed your letter of Jeh 3) last week the pirst - that I have keerened fram you your say you fren sich and have gone to work in a saw mill before you have yot your Strenght wich your very long to hear. you sentely can not your any my thing by work ing when you are not all you will provably loose by it make your Self sich agani, and a helafs might prove fatte you Sentenly should try and get labor at Some lighter work, you say use that you lost many by Henry Haugh you should be ear hell how you let is a moving so to men that one matti well repained it to you be pore larry you want me to give ony where about coming to But -I Sustenly that never- give may advice to you ar any other - young man to come to Calabanna unless thay will take it after than yit here, their is thousands of yany nen in this state that habe lein have from live to lan years that can finat gil means to get to The attantichs yand mines will if your on any other young man come to calaporne you most not this it of giling sitch in short space of line of is slaw and share that wing the race in caleforme is well as in facigor to

if you think of Lyany to the gall mines years Joh better Stay at have and word for pro. for mint you will be beton of tem years from non on the other hand if you would statisfyde to work on a Rund for 25 on 30 Ballans per mante and he fullful allowed to your huisness in the conse of a few years you would be well of , you you was use warry leaves have That well stock to one places may louth of time I they will work 3 on 4 months get Their money nun around utill it is all spent and There a lower for gorso munts agane I have been thinking of flan for us to per seen if geom bring Things whound to my mirel that is for you und your mother to stay chave you use institle ment Junuary and git all you can to other and what money you lack to get heir with 5 will Sand you and for me to stay where of am untill you and your mother git heir and git all gean to yether and then to take what money their is left and buy cows and things to but house with I have now \$750, in money and una giting so Salluns per month fand my Salar and interest on my money I shal have to Send you and your - mather to git heir with \$200, on 250 Sallurs, to get afluce to live and Thing to heep hour with Say 2 as 300, hundre Dullars and a horse, her to ride buy 60, gallars Sury all to yether \$500, of ghave my helth untill then I shal be up 9400, more witch would leave me \$ 650 to buy cours with wich would huy at the present prices 30. cours

Whily lows would be all we could take of for you so mosts in a year then you lailed de Sundhing elei of you wanted to ut any nates of this h we could manage to git alivering Same how with out being Slaves to other papele if you and your mather. Think that this from will work if will fain to it with all my thank back to Kenyost of will do that when g get a little more money but y never Shal advise you to come to Calabaanu withogan mather and my Self use heir for y do not think you will do as well heir. with jus at you would with with us you want it flowere to go to and we want you where we are I will not say any Thing more about it intill I have Callaforna is all Summer and no winter - g have fat san one plake of snaw since y have here in this state Their is hut very litte have fulls here we have about 6 month drouth in The year and very little, the other 6 man the in commence planghing in face and fines en month my line within the above monthered line will answer to fut in erafs . my huisness of our seeing april sunch and wride ing ufter eattle gum the most of the time in the Saddle of will take a good houses to Stand The milesny that I shal have to the the next 3 months

your mother und us you thing hes I shal write to you agare hapain one will I want you to write to the as Sam as you Revene this and let me no have you git along 2 Stany

Houstons Ranch may 14 1501 My Dear Sam I received your letter of their this las and um wany yould to have gave mell. Is seemed gain feller of last winter and an sweet it also see from your mother ill the There time, my hell is werney youl this suman. and has him kine & have him in Calapanne alto my heth is youl I am not able to take hold of head work , I could mat get profine folions for all the hard work of could do in an month hat you can bet I have to care my maney you munt to me what of thereto shout your corners to callyout of you wont to come heir to solle down for life I think I would be a qual pluse to the it is wery helling heir ghave not money IT Dying conce I have been her in waring some of them was that for how selling one or youl early them mundered are pussend one by the wishesian of Gad one fell from it lade of grain, gan will I then is anely one in such dies is natural lette heir witch about an exerage in this state.

Side not not such at the gay to whart can ing to Cal of this time the fun an the Stame more for \$ 185, of would east 15 cent on the date for figil the mances to you at this time

with wanty, \$ 212, other expenses would have it up late 240 dullary with would make as multil as you could have in one year. here I should like to have you ama to tallay Think you had beller water untill things are of tille more setted of any rate you better. wate un till next-full of your moter comes you will wate and come with her if the to me come of shall met - Stay her. were more Then are year more if she dos same y went Sand way of living besides working by the month, I have lude up litte alres grow Eight hundred dollars einer g have ben hech und une makeing whoulf so fer month nous you wrate Bumtaing about out digings I should like to heir sunthing man about it I have no nume time to weath to day lat me den frame you Man yours S.C. S. S. May with there try ain lellers to Languett Carlan Casta Ce

My dear honard frende

I am glad to improve this opertonity in riting afew lines to you to let you know now and where I am adoing

I amt adoing thing

I have ben under the doctors hands now 16 weaks with
the cidny complaint. but I think I am giting little
beter now I have worked all winter in a sawmill from
dalight til nine oclock. if you know any thing the
folks \_\_\_\_\_ on the flats I want you to in forme
me what they are all at over on the flats
I have giten to or there leters to them and havnt hird
from them yet. I hope few lines will find you all well
I shuld like to se you all very much
I am in so mutch misrey that I cant rite mutch to
you to day
so God by untill I see you again
rite soon and let me know how you are giting alolmy

Direct your letter to Kent county
Grand Rappils
Michigan

this foon Henry gugles

yours respectully

orlande huff

FIRST LETTER - ORLHADO TO EM

Spelling & grammar

Colden June 9th 1861

Miss Emma

Most respected Friend

I home you will excuse me for the liberty I take in writing to you. But as distance intervenes between us I have no other means of conveying my scattered thoughts, except through the medium of my pen. Mr. Dart and me enjoyed ourselves as well as could be expected concidering it was on the seventh day of the week when we left Dayton. When about two thir's of the way on our journey we wer overtaken by a vilent rain storm, as there was no public House within three miles of us we took possession of a Barn and converted its contents thereof to our special benifit We retained peaceble possession until we left There was no lives lost or blood spilled in the whole fracas I have been some what lonesome since I left Dayton, and have thought strongly of returning, but business will not permit. Therefore I shal have to enjoy my selfe according to circumstances (or rather aontent my selfe) If you only knew how still it is in the sanctury where I am writing you would not wonder at sutch good writing The children (less than 40 in unmber) are amusing themselves with each others noise Therefore I console myselfe with the old adge that patiense is a virtue and industry must prosper, As I leave for Patchen this after noon I must close. I shal be most happy to hear from you (should this epistle meet youre approbation) immediatly on the reciept of this. I think the above hint about the children is a sufficient excuse for my good writing spelling and

> Most respectfuly Yours \_\_\_\_\_ O. S. Hough Golden Erie Co. NY

Miss E L Bassett

Dayton Aug. 20, 1861 Friend Crlando,

Doubtless ere this you have come to the conclusion that your letter was unwelcomely received by me, or not at all: but I hope this may convince you contrary. I received your letter & perused it with much pleasure; and wrote a long letter in reply to it - and have wondered why you did not answer it: until last evening; I was writing and among my envelopes I found one which I plotted - where I wrote, and I directed it through mistake to Alden instead of Golden: desiring to remove all doubts & fears I take an early opportunity to rectify the mistake - (if you will pardon me) and concider it"an error of the head & not of the heart." In my other letter I wrote all the news of the day, but since then there has been some new occurrences worthy of note. Emma & Augusta Markham are married to brothers names Remington. H. Prosser was married one day this week to a Miss Draper in Randolph. Mr Dart's folks have gone to Ohio - they are not expected to return very soon: - we miss them very much. I have come early this morning to the school house in hopes of being favored with silence for a few moments but in vain - as I write my scholars come in by the dozen -& the interuption prevents my writing any more this morning. It is now noon and again I resume my writing. I am yet engaged in teaching-my school prospers finely. I have guite a large school which furnishes me enough to do, to keep me out of mischief. If you will come out here I'll tell you more news than I can write in a week - we missed you very much here, after you left: there will be a camp meeting held at Markham's - commencing Aug 29th: And we should be very glad to have you attend: I heard Julia wishing you would come. I shall be obliged to close - this illcomposed & poorly written letter - by requesting you to answer very soon.

From a friend.

E. L. Bassett
Dayton

Dear friend Emma

I recieved yours of the 22nd out yesterday and hasten to reply as you will see by the soove lete. I exceedingly regret at my not being able to attend the Camp meeting of which you spoke. For I am shure that I could enjoy myself very mutch, with my friends in that vicinity especialy the one whoom I am at present addr ssing. You say you wondered why I did not enswer youre letter written some time ago + also wondered what had become of my letter whether rejeved & rejected or whether it had been miscarried, wer my conjectures. The latter suposition however being the least I am present living in the Town of Golden, a place noted for its beautiful senery sutch as its towering ? lofty hill - tops & green flowery valleys, (rathe more hills than vallies though) The productions of this most prospercis & glorious Town is Leeks % black Berries The latter is highly prized by the natives as an extra & rare treat for visitors The former is noted for its capability of purifying the breath and makeing the consumer of it agreeable in company Now you would naturaly suppose that one could not help but take comfort amidi such luxiries. But alas how werily does the time pass If I wer to be confined in this Town for six months I dont believe I should live more than an hundred years or sutch a matter. I should judge that the times must nessesarily be lively up in Dayton according to youre record of marragies in that vicinity I must acknowledge my surprise at hearing of the marraige of those Markham Giles (I might have properly said Infants) if it want for ther being concidered old folks now You spoke about your students interrupting you while writing I know how to simpathyze with you although yous may excel these in number their abilities must cirtainly be inferior to these for making a nois for I shurely hear myself think and wer I to close my eyes and imagine my selfe down south I should think that the Armies wer engaged in severe conflict It is time that I should close this epistle for I fear that youre patience will be sorely tried before you have perused it half through It doubtful for me to tell at presnt when I shal be able to visit Dayton it may be some weeks before I can enjoy that pleasure I hope you will not criticise these times closely, if you do please excuse the many mistakes % write soon

Most respectfuly youre Friend
Orlando

Dear Friend,

As opportunity presents itself I very cheerfully improve the same in addressing a few lines to a much respected friend. I received your very welcome and interesting letter the 25th of September, the day that I came home. I was happy to hear of your safe arrival home, and that you was so highly favored with interesting company on your journey from Dayton to Gowanda: the said Dutchman called at our house and unfortunately for me I was not at home: I was diverted with the account our folks gave me of his call: he inquired very particularly for me - but stated the object of his call or rather excuse was to sell some shoes - but he concidered it his expecial duty to inform my folks that I was about to marry, "that curly headed driver", (that we went with, to the War Meeting A rather the one, which we did not go with) and that he was a very bad man .... Propebly he gave a true history of the man, but in regard to me he exaggerated some; I think. I have not seen M. E. since you was here: I heard that he was in Town the first day of the Fare. But I was at home, and consequently did not see him: In regard to the arrangement which you made for my convenience (in case you was not here, I will merely say - I should have appreciated more: a boat, with a skillful and more reliable pidat. We have had a great shood here - it commenced raining thursday night - it continued raining all night, and the next day: raising the Cattaraugus Creek and' smaller streams to such a hight that it mad great destruction here: it carried the bridge over the creek: down stream and it landed nearly oposite the School House: it also carried away most all of the buildings on the creek. Barker's Hotel was in great danger: it washed away the bank within a few feet of the house. We have not heard the extent of the damage done: - not even in this place as there has been no means of conveying across the creek, news or persons intil today, they have a small boat which by the aid of a rope suspended across the creek they succed in crossing. I believe they intend to build a temporary bridge soon as possible. I have been to Church today heard Ross C. Lord preach a sermon on the late calamity which has befell this place: he said that he was confident in the belief that this flood was sent upon the people here because they disregarded thursday; the day appointed for fasting and prayer, there must be floods elsewhere- I wonder what is the cause: if the people is as wicked every where as in Gowanda: but enough of this I regreted that you was not permitted to at the fair-I shall be happy to see you here at any time: if you regard this worthy of an answer, please answer it.

E. L. Bassett.

"Don't send me any more 16 Stamps" if you do L'll not not write any more letters to you. Em

Golden Dec 19th / 61

Dear Emiline

indicate

Doubtless ere this you have thought that I had forgotten my promis to wright. Although not as yet in New York City or upon the broad Atlantic as I had expected when I last saw you As Ithis now past the time for starting this month I shal not leave here until the 28th of this month or N. Y. City the first of Jan I strived in Golden the next day after I was at youre School & it was realy amusing to see the astonished visages which I chanced to meet in the streets as they had herd that I had been sent after by some of the military Officers & was on my way to Washington I did not get that likeness of yours that you promised me. And in asking for youre likeness allow me also to ask you for the original, or in other words will you be mine. Should this proposal meet with joure appropation I should be most happy to hear from you immediately. All letters sent to my address between this and the 28th of thismonth will propably reach me my departure on the above date is as yet very uncertain I hope Emma that you will excuse this ill composed and poorly written letter as I have nessessrily had to wright in a hurry as the lines themselves will

Most respectfuly & truly Yours

O. S. Hough

Marriage Proposal Dear Sir,

I acknowledge the reception of your very kind and welcome letter. I become rather impatient in waiting to hear from you: - but was glad to learn that you had not gone to C-I feared that you had become so absorbed in thoughts of your anticipated journey, that you had quite forgotten that of less import, (your friend E.) 0- did you leave my school in disgust that day? I should not blamed you if you had. I was very much annoyed at the conduct of those girls. I should have been very severe with them, if it had not been the first offence - it was unexpected and unlooked for: therefore I was not prepared for the attack; they become very civil after you left - I was so provoked at their actions that I made up my mind I would give them what they deserved: - I thought I would purt it off until the next day: I then called them out & talked very plain to themtold them as long as they showed themselves ladies, they would be treated as such, but it they condescended to anything as low again or repeated the offence - they would be treated accordingly. Probably this will not interest you much: but I think it demends some explanation, the girls said at the commencement of the school (to a lady in the place) that if any one visited sharthe school or scholars, they would treat them well; - but if they visited the "Teacher" they would do as they pleased. and I think they meant to do so - for the saturday following there was six gentlemen & ledies visited the school & they done exceedingly well. This effair has beed of no disadvantage to me as it arroused my energy and interest; I fear that I was becoming too indifferent in school. I received a letter from Julia M. yesterday she said they were well Mary has gone to Buffalo to spend the winter. Carrie to Albany. it seems some lonesome here come to stay a few days or a week; while they repair the School House. Orland you may think by my writing, that I regard the subject you spoke of little importance, to put it off till the last. if so - you are mistaken - I have been thinking today: my mind has gone back to the time when I first met you: it was then you made an impression on my heart, which time and acquaintance have only despened: and in view of past enjoyment, and future hapiness can I be indifferenct to your proposal? 0 - you may have my likeness: and the "other" which you spoke of - if you desire it above all others. I ask a return of affection without which - I-mever could bestow mine. Can you not find from your circle of acquaintances, some one who is more capable of contributing to your hapiness than myself? If you can not - I shall be happy to claim you as my protector, advisor and dearest friend if you prefer some one else more: I will ever be your friend and well wishor: - but no more. I have been to one Free Methodist meeting since you was here, it was a loud one too. They dedicate their Church New Year's eve they expect very smart ministers from abroad to be present. Oh! how I wish you could our so as to attend: Please do come if you do not start to C - before then. This will probably reach you about Christmas: I wish you a merry one, I shll be obliged stopp writing - for it is getting near midnight & I fear

(cont.)

you can not read what I have written. Please answer this very soon.

Truly & sincerely yours

Emma

Dear Orlando:

This Tuesday eve finds me at home- endeavoring to compose & controll my mind enough to write a few thoughts: for a substitute of an answer to your letter, dated the 14th of March, and received last week. You may wonder at what I have written above but I think you will not, when I tell you that I have been up late every night, & sometimes all night for three weeks; with my Mother, who has been very sick for seven or eight weeks: I was at Cattarangus at the time she was taken- she became so very low- she could scarcely speak or realize any thing that occured- that it alarmed my folks so much- they sent for me, and also the others of the family that was absent. She is now a little better- but not out of danger. In the first place she had an attack of the Rheumatism: which was broken up too violently- and consequently Algor Fever set in, and after that had to run its course: congestion of the Lungs was pronounced next to be the difficulty, and that she is suffering from now: and we fear unless she has help soon it will lead to consumption: you doubtless think I have written quite a catalogue of diseases: for one person to be afflicted with- but this the statement of the Physicians that attend her.) Rugg & Johnson) you probably know the skill of the latter- and as for the former- if he continues to call I fear he will make me sick, he is so disagreeable: - I guess I will change the subject- "or I can not write any thing else". I have not been to Dayton yet, but I am going soon as I can leave home: Julia M. was here about a week ago, I had a pleasant chat with her she did not relate any news in particular, more than they have got a new boat- which rather indicates we shall have lively times when I do go. Dear Orlando, you may judge by your own feelings whether it give

ne any pleasure to get a letter from you or not: do write more frequent- if possible: it seems like an age from the time I get a letter from you before I get another: you may think me too exacting- if so. please pardon this fault of selfishness; I do not wish to too much upon your time or attention, but I am so glad to hear from you. Oh! how I wish you could be at Dayton to row our boat for us: would it not be delightful? I am nearly alone at home now, there is only one of the girls here- not quite alone either for the house is thronged constantly with callers to see and inquire about mother Carrie is yet at Albany expects to remain until June. I understood that the said Mike (spoken of here-to-fore-) had written a letter to her- I would like to take a peep at her face as she reads it. He has been very inquisitive in regard to me and my affairs - but I guess he has directed or rather inflicted his attention elsewhere, of late:-I hope he will succeed- "for I can not take his school". By the description you gave of Cal. I should judge it must be quite a novelty to you- who have been accustomed to see forests, and hills instead of mountains. It is cold this spring here, vegitation is very backward, there is scarcely a green blade of grass to be seen on the ground. I will send that likeness- soon as I receive yours- which I hope will be soon. Please excuse this very poorly written letter-I have been writing what was uppermost in my mind without regard to order or arrangement: I do not dare to read it over, for fear I shall be obliged by observing the many mistakes to write it over. Do write very soon and often, and by doing so oblige

E. C. Bassett.

Dear Orlando:

It is a lovely evening. I have just returned from a walk which I have enjoyed exceedingly; the moon shines very brightly- almost equal to the light of day: - it reminds me of the evening a long time ago, when we met at Mr. Darts down in the dutch settlement: doubtless you remember it- it was later in the season thenthan it is now: many times has my mind wandered back to the unforgotten past- and memory serves to re-enjoy the happy hours I have spent in your society: it also extends in anticipation to the futureto the time when we shall meet- to be no more separated by the distance which now intervenes between us: but perhaps I am looking forward to the future with hopes that the present may never realize but I will leave it in the hands of providence whom I believe controls the wills and destinys of men (not excluding women)- not by depriving us of our free agency:- but by relying on divine promiseshe will direct us: and permit all things to result in good to them that obey his commandments.

My health is very good this summer it never was better, and wish this to find you well and happy. In one of your letters you stated that you "thought me too lovely to prove false". I fear you estimate too highly the qualities that I possess. I have faults, which no doubt you have seen: but in regard to the promise I made you; I concider it too sacred to be trifled with. I have been to Dayton as intended, since I wrote to you last. It is now about eleven o'clock and I shall be obliged to lay aside my writing until another time. It is now one day later and not writing all I wanted to yesterday again I resume writing. I found the folks well as usual, but a few

changes or improvements. I called to most all of the places in the district excepting on the hill- which I had no time for: I staid four days. I met Mr. Edwards to Julia's- "and report says" that he pays her steady attention- and probably will make a union. I think she esteems him higher than formally: if I am allowed to judge by appearances. I would like to tell you of a few things that occurred while I was there- time and space will not allow me to do so at present. I received a letter last night from my sister Carrie stating that she would be at home this week- she has graduated- after many hopes and fears- with honors. I leave home next week for Evansor I expect to now: a friend of mine wishes me to spend the summer with her or stay awhile to help her, it is a delightful place and I think I shall be contented and happy there, or at least as happy as I can be without your society. Please continue to direct your letters to Gowanda: and do please write very often. We have company today-I have stole away from them to finish my letter- they will wonder at my long absence therefore I shall be obliged to stopp writing.

From your well wisher

Erma

Dearest Emma

Having just returned home after two weeks absence I can cheerfuly improve this first oportunity (since I last wrote ) of writing to you. It is now five weeks since I rec youre letter & I feel greatly concerned about you Erma: in regard to youre health. When you last wrote to me (the last letter I rec I mean) you wer having rather of a hard time of it & I shal wait very impatiently to hear from you Dear Emma: & hope to hear that you are well & enjoving yourself My health is very good this summer & as that old saying is I am as tough as an Injin I have been to work with a reaping machine for two weeks past & I expect to go with threshing machiene with the same man for fifty two Dollars per month. remember I wrote you and that I had the mining fever Ive got all over that now Emma: & believe the Irishmans adage: That fair & aisy goes far in a day: I have seen so many poor miners & herd them tell such discouraging stories that I don't believe I shal ever go to the mines with the intention of mining. When I was in the States & herd them tell about takeing out five Dollars worth of dust in a day I thought men could not help but do well. but Emma: that is all humbug 5.00 Dollars per day in the mines dont pay in such places Flour is from 50¢ to one Dollar per pound, Bacon from one Dollar to one fifty, Butter from one Dollar to two & other prices. to corespond. I think cheese minings about the best mining in Cal. as that article is in good demand at from 22 to 25 cts per 1b. We have now on hand about 140 good cheese which we intend to keep until fall

There was great rejoicing here when the news was recieved that the Pacific Rail Road bill had passed Congres they fired an hundred guns over at the Fort & had a grand turn out in the City in the evenings

Last Wensday 300 Prisoners escaped from the States Prison at San Joanqin 200 wer captured again after a desperate fight in which 10 wer killed & 15 wounded (of the Prisoners) 100 escaped taking with them the Warden of the Prison they took possession of a Boat in the Harbor & kept the Soldiers from firing on them by keeping the Warden in front of them or between them & the Soldiers they soon landed however & took to the Mountains stealing Horsen & robbing Houses on the way they finally let the Warden go & he returned: rather the worse for wear: for he was considerably cut to pieces with knives by his captors.

I don't know when I shall have another oportunity to write to you but rest assured Dear Emma: I will improve the first that offer, its self I will write again in 2 weeks if possible but do not fail to write Dear if I do. You are very Dear to me Emma & it gives me great pleasure to peruse youre letters—they afford me many happy hours & supply me with aggreeable company

Please put youre: Specstickles: and read what you can of this Emma. & write immediately

Yours Truly
Orlando

Dear Orlando,

Again, after several previous attempts, I will endeavor to write hoping at this time, to be more successful than heretofore. I am very weary after the labors of the day; but your letter I must reply to, (or rather your letters for I have received two from you since I have written): the last dated July 4th, received about a week ago.

It gave me inexpressible joy to receive a line written by your hand, proceeding I trust from your heart, which I assure you reached mine. I am stopping at Mr. James Ayer's at Evans: have been here four weeks today, it is a very pleasant place here- I am in good health and excelent spirits, there is much here to promote both- although I feel many times as if I performed more than I ought- for to retain my health; last week I was alone that is with no one to help me. Mrs. Ayre is dead- she, died last winter, and dying she wished a Mrs. Merritt who keeps house) when she is here) & a friend of mine, to promise her to stay here and take care of her children, when she was gone- and she is here- but needed help, and company, therefore she urged me to come and stay with her awhile: but I think she has improved the opportunity well for she has been away much of the time, Mr. Ayre works three hundred acres of land and you may judge by that whether we have any thing to do in the house, as well as out doors. I have no leasure except that which I take from my sleeping hourswhich of late have been few enough. Oh! Orlando I must tell you of one occurance- which I know will amuse you excedingly- for it did me: there is a German, who has resided in Mr. Ayres family nine years; he is very industrious and deeply pious- but very raw, with all thatwho soon after I came here manifested a great interes in my behalfhe was an extreme critic in all kinds of housework; but he found no fault with me: every thing he said- was done just right- one evening I was surprised by his returning from Church earlier than usual )the folks all being gone but me) he came in- in a buisness sort of a way and without any ceremony asked me to Mary him- It come so unexpected, I was confounded & amused, I hardly knew how to answer him- so I finally hit upon this- that I would treat the matter very seriously to all appearance: so I told him that was not so good as he wastherefore he had better excuse me- he replied "that I was as better as he," which amused me so much I could not refrain from bursting out laughing: which he took a slight offence at, and called me a sinner several days afterward but he could not retain his anger very long for in a short time afterward he repeated his proposal: but this time I gave him an answer so decided- he gave up the matter and resolved to go immediately to war- he therefore enlisted under Captain Ayre )brother of J. Avre) in a company of about thirty who went to Buffalo, yesterday, after examination he returned home, was not accepted, I asked why- he said because he was "short-sighted". I thought how very unfortunate it is to be "short sighted. Continued on the next half sheet

Dear Emma:

I recd your letter dated June 26th last Saturday (16th) The Likeness was all right with a single exception-it is not quite so good looking as the Orriginal- I had began to get quiet uneasy about you Emma: as it was the only letter recd from you in over two months. But in looking at the date I perceive it had been almost two months in coming. You wished me to be frank with you Emma: in regard to what my Parents think about youre entering their family I will be frank Emma: and hope you will be the same without the least restraint. My utmost confidence is placed in you Emma: and my mind containes not a secret that I would not import to you. Being an only child my Parents are particularly anxious I remain with tham under all such consideration I will go into partnership 4 2 4 7 4 4 4 is our present intention to carry on an exwith my Father and it tensive dairying business next season. Should we act according to our present meditation it will be nessary for me to live somewhere near if not with them, and I have not come to any conclusion yet where to live after we are married, & shal be happy to be governed entirely by your wishes in this respect. As for their thinking it a presumptious idea for you to come to Cal under the circumstances: I assure you dear Emma: they do not but on the contrary are pleased with the idea & will be happy to welcome you with the best their humble cot affords. Those who wish me well must you or they are no friends or well wishers of mine.

Your friends if consulted will undoubtedly endevor to discourage you.from coming, & picture out the great danger of a sea vorage. They may think it absurd for a Single Lady to travel so far

alone in so doing they think (if not speak) through ignoranse not experience. Your rights will be better maintained on board a Cal steamer than in the most thorough Town in Ch.G. Should a man insult a Lady in any way on board a Cal Steamer I will warrant he would be put in irons forthwith on complaint being made to the Capt. It may seem like a long & tedious journey but I tell you & tell you truly Emma: that I had rather come from Ch.G. City to San Fransisco than from Buffalo to N.Y.

I don't know but I am asking to much Emma..when I ask you to come to Cal. but this State can never be a home for me without you therefore I hop you will be as frank with me as I have endeavored to be with you. I don't know but I have spoken rather too plainly if so pleas pardon won't you doar Erma!

I was greatly surprised the other day on the reciept of a letter with reciept bottom he informed me they had a Boy at their house 8 weeks old. I suppose if it had not been for the Boy he would not ams.d my letter at all for that was all the news he disclosed. I hope when you return from Dayton you will tell me all the mischief that has been going on there since I left. I have not ans Julias letter yet Emma but will one of these days when I get time.

I had almost forgotten to tell you about the ride I had last sunday with 5 or 6 of my friends we started from here & went down to San Pablo visited the San Pablo Garden some fine fruit & drove from that place down the Bay to Dakland took dinner at Oakland & returned Home again by way of San Pablo making a nice ride of about 40 miles over one of the most beautiful section of country in the world I must now close for the want of room to write & hope soon to hear from you & youre pleasant time up to Dayton

Truly yours

Dear Emma:

Again I find myself endevoring to convey my scattered thoughts to you through the medium of my pen. Your kind & welcome letter bearing date Aug 31st was recvd day before yesterday (wensday) The war excitement of which you spoke I suppose exists throughout York State it is quite different in this State there is little or no excitement at all at present. But very little enlistings is going on and those that do enlist in Cal will never get into the south to fight, they will be kept at home fighting the Indians

I dont think there is much danger of my going to the wars and leave my Harp on a willow tree! so long as America is against America: but should any foreign Nation interfer I should not hesitate long but off to the war at once. You may think Emma that my patriotism needs arrousing I think it will need a great shake to arrouse my patriotism sufficient to go Sout to fight. Do not think by this dear Emma: that I am on the cessish principal for I assure you I am strong for the Union: at the same time I think this war could have been settled had it not been for a few political demagogues at Washington It wont do for me to argue the Union question much here. there is a young Cessesh by my side at this moment.

I suppose the disagreeable fall wether has already set in whare you are but the day here is verey warm the thermometer stands at 90° in the shade. We wer favored with a shower the other day which came near laying the dust but not quite, with this exception. I have not seen any rain since May or June. The leaves are begining to fall here & they do look so odd some turn a little yellow others look kind of dead & other leaves falloff looking as green as they did in the Spring Some of the poison Oak leaves look just as the leaves do in the States when they fall off. Take it all in all this is a queer old State inhabited all kinds of people most of whoom are well educated with the exception of the Chinees slaves they are a hard old set so are the Spaniards some of the latter would cut a mans throat for five dollars.

That Cousin I told you about some time ago has been drafted & has gone to war consequently you will not be favored with his company if you come to Cal dont let that discourage you Emma: for you will find plenty company. Has any of our Dayton Friend or acquaintances been disabled? As it is getting late in the day I shal be compelled to close Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain

Truly Yours

Orlando

## San Pablo Creek Oct 24th/62

Dear Emma:

Again I find the time at hand which sayes to me that it is time to again convey a few scattered thoughts to you through the medium of my pen, also to acknowledge the reciept of youre kind and interesting letter bearing date of Sep 21st. It gives me great pleasure to learn that you are willing to sacrifise home and its endearments to share another so humble & with one so unworthy. But it is not the Palace which affords the most happiness although it may comfort,

People may talk to their hearts content about you coming, Erma: it wont amount to anything after they get ghrough & if they don't keep truth on their side the worst is their own. Remomber Emma: that those who condescend to false-hood are no friends but pretended ones whose opinions are not worth courting. For fear you may think like many others that come to Cal that we have no cold weather here consequently; bring nothing but summer clothing I will meerly say you will find considerable cold wind here winters therefore winter clothing will not come amis. I presume you will never see so cold weather in this State as you are having at home at this present time but it will effect you more the day here is very pleasant and warm the Thermometer sta at 70° in the shade. The ground is as dry as a bone & the wild roses continue to bud and blow as though it was only spring & the present simptoms indicate fair weather for at least a month yet I am having comparitively easy time just now only 5 or 6 cows to milk and those only once a day. I expect to commence riding next week and continue until the rains set in for we have got about 150 head of Stock running at large on the mountains which we must get home before winter As I have not got room enough on this sheet to give you the nessary directions about coming to Cal I will dedicate a whole letter to it

before long. I should like to know what you a kirs D a Jule fel out about I was not the least surprised to learn that you had I have known those two ladies for some time and think I know them as well as they know themselves: I could tell you some tough zaines about them which everyone dont know. I have got a letter in my trunk which I wrote you some time ago and did not send for fear of creating hardness between you a them. I will show you the letter some time that you may know what my opinion has been of them for some time although I kept my opinion to myself I will mearly say you have no need to mourn the look of their pretended friendship. As there is not another blank side to this sheet of paper I must close the drama, hoping these few lines will find you well a happy.

I remain Truly Yours
Orlando

Nov 3rd 1862

Dear Friend

Yours of Oct 6th was not received by me till Thursday of last week. The reason was you directed your letter to Moderia & as we live in another neighborhood we have changed our Post Office address I can assure you that I was very glad to hear from you & I had began to think you rather tardy about writing.

You are deserving of a good husband & think you will be depriving yourself of considerable to leave home & friends & go so far away & Emeline I can't take no for an answer but what you will come & see me before you leave York State. You must not think that if you marry that you are out of trouble for I think if you get one of the kindest of husbands that you will more care & trouble than you now have for you'll have two to please instead of one. Yet still if two agrees well & tries to please each other a married life is much more pleasant one than a single life & you know if given notions are born & brought up in a person that marriage is not going to remove it.

You spoke about your marrying & ask my advice. I do not call myself a good adviser but will say that you may better by far marry a man that has a good intellect if he has a good heart & willing hand than to marry riches without intellect but remember & "marry in haste & repent at leisure". Try & be well enough acquainted to know that he is a person of good habits for I think that

Well Em I must confess I was somewhat amused at the contents of your letter

Why should you think that I am quite an old lady I feel as young as ever & I griefs look like the same old sixpence. When I look at our little girl now past four years old it does not seem possible that she is mine, but so it is. & Em you spoke of yourself

es foine as "6"

as being an "old maid", that some despise those that are such but I cannot say that I do. There are some crusty & curious old maids so also there are some great married persons

Well I have written this over & what does it amount too
We are in usual health. Mother & Betsey are here, have not heard
from Frank in some time- she has lost one of her little girls.
Write soon

Martha & G

My Dear Orlando,

I am exceedingly glad to have the opportunity to write to you. I rec'd your letter of date Sept. 26 and also one of more recent date (Oct. 10) they afforded me much pleasure -yet I thought they seemed cold: -- perhaps it was my imagination, or owing to my own warmth of feelings at the time I rec'd then. I am willing to have you share in the joys and secrets of my heart, this is why I write this: Your image is engraven on my heart, and neither time, distance nor circumstances; can efface it, & it will renain there as long as time lasts: I have friends whom I respect, for their kindness to ne--but the affections of my heart are undivided. Today is the sabbath, I have been to Church & heard Mr Heney (from Jamestown) preach a very interesting sermon: he is holding a protracted meeting here: and many have been converted; and a general interest & solemnity prevails all about here, on the subject of religion: I hope the good impressions made on their minds & hearts--will show its effects on their lives & acts. Mr H's sermons are not what you would call gread -- but they are good, I think they come from the heart & they can not fail to reach the heart. He reminds me of our Savior every time I hear him speak or look at him: he is so patient & kind I am still stopping at Mr Ayers but intend to go home in a few days: My health is very good so that I need but little time to rest: and by the time you set for me to start: I shall be in readiness: I come relying on you for my future safety and hapiness -- trusting and believing that you will ever be faithful to the charge, and I am willing to commit myself in truth & love to be true to you. I do not think I

can receive an answer from this before I go--yet your extra reminder in traveling -- to me would be very important, You spoke of enjoying the society of your friend from C. I was pleased to hear that you was having a good time--but is not the sport you refered to dangerous? You spoke of the war--your sentiments are similar to nine in regard to it. I would like to say much about it but time and space forbids--yet I'll say here I should be unwilling for a friend of mine to enlist -- Some of the Dayton boys have gone Calvin Johnson and his brother Giles after marrying Miss Cole. Filo Markham & erthina Markham's husband, a stranger to me I do not know what his name is. Mr Ayer wrote for me to use my influence in enlisting a dozen good young men to fill out his Company which has been stopping in Baltimore. I think he has overrated my influence -and even if it was sufficient, I should be unwilling to do so. It is getting late I have not exhausted my thoughts but I have nearly my paper: I will write again when I get home.

Emmæ

I thank you very much for your punctuality in writing I can always find time to read letters, if I cant to write them.

Cood night dear Orlando.

E.

Dear Orlando:

I am obliged to begin writing with an oppology for my seeming negligence, in replying to your letter as well as my promise to write soon as I got home: I have had much to demand my attention & occupy my time: but I regard it more of a pleasure, than a task to write to those I love; and kindly regard -- which you may doubt -- by my giving the preference to other things home last week--on tuesday--I regretted very much to leave Evans-it has afforded many pleasant hours to me--and I have formed some new and worthy acquaintances -- which I shall ever hold dear. I spent more time there than I intended -- from the fact I could hardly get away -- so strongly I was urged to remain: they saw no necessity in my going home they said -- but every one knows their own affairs best -- and I always ? to mine. I would like to tell you all about some good jokes, and other things which occured while I was in Evans -- I think you would enjoy their recital as much as we did, that participated in the fun: I will tell you some future time. My health is good-and I believe I am happy--as I can be--I have many things to promote my hapiness, a few things -- that are detrimental to it. I thank you for your well wishes -- in my behalf, and I will return them doubly, You wondered what could have occurred to have broken the friendship of Mrs. D. & Julia & I, there never was any very strong bonds uniting us: I always doubted them they can not be, they are not capable of being a true friend to any one, yet I never before last summer concidered them so mean as to tell an actual falsehood -- I wrote to J a short time ago accusing her of

it -- I told her that I did not fear her influence for I had learned from those who was better acquainted than I, that she had none: I told her she had extended her hospitality to me, many times -- and that I very much regretted that I had accepted it -- and that she had also many times helped me to while away time -- which would have been more profitably spent alone: I wrote a sheet like this full just after this stile: I do not like to write such letters -- but I can if it is necessary: in difenc of my rights -- As you have been confidential in relation to your affairs: I will endeavor to be--and not withhold that confidence which might create anxious thoughts in your heart -- Well! to begin Mr. E -- was as I told you once before very much interested in two members of our family. one Carrie the other myself -- and when I was to Dayton he came to Mr. Markhams, and we went over to Mr Darts, -- all of us, and in the evening returned to J's-great to my surprise he showed a decided preferance to me: -sayd to J. to excuse him -- he would like to speak with me of course I had some curiosity-yet I told him I had nothing to say but what I could say in the presence of Miss M .-- yet she took an offence and retired: I desired to do so, but curiosity prompted me to hear what he had to say: it was this, saying that he never should marry J. that he did not love her: he tried to appeal to my sympathy -- but he found me indifent on the subject -- "taking his own words for it" then he turned his attention to Carrie told me how much he thought of her . I did not discourage him -- I thought he might speak to her himself--and he would be better satisfied--and I think he is now: at least he can not alter the matter: it seems that J. & Mrs. D. was let into the secret which Mike says J. listened and overheard what we said: as far as I was concerned I did not care but it was very humiliating to J. to hear what she did no doubt in

result -- Jule told that we set up in the dark -- after burning out all of the candle and a great lot besides which Mike took the liberty to tell me about -- in reply I told him I did not any longer want Jules society, nor her associates, /on the other ) and he has taken it for granted that I alluded to him: he sees the girls some times. and wonders to them what has offended me: that I have not answered his letter . Now I do not wish to treat any body lightly, I wish to respect them always and every body; if they are worthy of it--his previous history lookes dark by what I have heard. yet I can say he has been always very respectful to me; yet I dislike him, and I do not want his company: he thinks I spend the winter in Evans, and probably will not call at our house to see me while I am at home. I would like to see his countenance at hearing that I have gone to Cal. for he is no friend to you -- he does not know that I correspond with you -- but he thinks I do with some one, I have heard, he said but enough of this -- I have wearied you alreadyto much with such nonsence: and will change the subject. I received a very interesting letter a short time ago from Mr Ayer, he concideres me one of his family, I have spent so much time there-he is certainly worthy of the greatest respect -- he is a friend who I can remember with kindness for past favors More recently, I received a letter from Evans stating that his ? had resigned & come home he stated that Mr Ayer was coming also, home: it is quite singular I can hardly credit it: by the way I have stretched this letter you may think, I have an inexhaustt fountain of nonsence but I assur you I have written about all I can for several reasons. You gave me some excelent hints in regard to clothing, I hope you will feel at perfect liberty to suggest any thing you think best, From your friend, Emma

Please excuse all mistakes, I do not mean on this page in particular-but wait till you get the six pages all read. E.

If you do not call this letter systematic, I shall not try to be so again, Carrie sends her kind regards to you, she is teaching on the hill right above the ? , we have good times.

The Free Methodist are holding a protracted meeting it is superior in loudness, that is all.

Do continue to write as often and as long as you can, and I will reply accordingly. E.

Dear Orlando:

With pleasure, I ascil myself, of the present opportunity, to reply to your letter mailed Nov. 17th and rec'd a day before yesterday: which contained many profitable lessons of wisdom, as well as, sources of hapiness: which I very gratefully acknowledge: the timely hints, and necessary directions, expressed—if properly regarded )which I shall endeavor to do) will doubtless be a safe guide in the proposed journey.

It is a dark and rainy day; the ground which has been sufficiently covered with snow, to make good sleighing: has nearly disappeared; leaving quite a depth of mud on the ground, which indicates more, unless more snow falls, or the ground becomes frozen: the last few days, the weather has been unusually warm, for this time of the year. My health is very good, I am ? uiting for the anticipated journey, which I was glad you defered, for several reasons Miss Julie Markham, called on me yesterday: she did not relate any startling news, except, that Mrs. E. Johnson had become a very desperate character, and was about to marry a man of very low reputation) named Butcher, if I am not mistaken.) It is sad, for me to think, that one who possesses so kind a heart, should disregard their own hapiness, and honor, so much, as to pursue such a course: I have heretofore believed her to be virtuous -- notwithstanding the reports to the contrary: I do not rely entirely on Julie's opinion; I have heard about the same report from lirs. J's friend, who would like to believe otherwise of her if they could consistently. Jule -- inquired if I had heard from Cal. of late--refering to you I presume as she received no satisfaction from me and I thought best to dropp the subject

I have not seen Mick, since I came home, but I had an occasion last to be somewhat amused: a lady near where we live told me, that a gentleman told her, that I was going to be married very soon, to the said "Mike", he thought it was too bad; and if he thought I would not be offended—he would tell me, just what kind of a fellow he is: so you see I am not entirely minus of friends. You refered to the "War Meeting of long ago," about J being disappointed in going. I must say, I hope C will atton so fully, for the past, that she will be constrained to freely pardon him, and receive him for her future portio? I received a letter from Evans last night stating that the report was wrong James Ayer was coming home: his

resign: Probably fearing he might be deprived of his own position if Mr A. remained. It is getting late in the evening—and by glancing over what I have written, that it will not pay to spend any more time on this—I presume you will conclude so too that I have exhausted all of my ideas if this contains any thing that is worthy of the name; pleas receive this as a substitute of a letter, and I will try to do better next time. Good Might

Yours affectionately, Emma.

Carrie sends her kind regards, told me something to write about Hike--but I have forgotten what it was.

Emma

Unreadable

alessedness wont

Unreadable

agression will

they Emma.

and as for a journey to Cal why its noth

for all trouble & expence) It would take 2 sheets of fools cap paper to tell you all that has transpired since I left . .

I had more trouble & run greater risks & was to more expense traveling & miles after I landed at Oakland than I was in coming from Colden
to San Francisco, it only cost me ten Dollars for 2 Horses to ride
that & miles you probbably think as I did Emma but after going over
the road I thought it very cheap. I should charge a man the full
value

value <u>Unreadable</u>

usand miles ap

something unforess happens

willing I will make the nessesary arrangements for you to come to Cal by next Jan I would put the time sooner but I think Ja the best time for crossing the water & by the time I can get settled & get a start so that we can enjoy ourselves quite comfetably I think, the limited knowled I have of Cal that you would be well pleased with the country & prospects to be shure it looks rather hard just now to me but I am not at all discouraged. Since you have placed confidence enough in me Emma to risk you?

Unreadable

from 75 to 80 Unreadable

Wood from 8 to

22 Dollars per Thousand Unreadable We have just commenced making Butter and commence making cheese next week.

Oh Emma I wish you wer here we would have a gay old time riding over

these hills but never mind Ile have a good Horse for you when you do come Emma for I have got a fine American colt right up there on the Mountain You may think there aint any mountains here Emma but if one was to blind their eys with a handkerchief they could see mountains but not like the hills of York State these are smooth & not timbered timbered land is scarce in this section

I do call it the prettiest country that I ever saw & the climate is most splendid why Emma although it is Winter here now you could sit out door in the shade & be comfortable from morn till night

the first of the first party of the control of the second of the second

the best Unreadable me I think that a bad State. The flood as I have found Unreadable ing in its way you know but verry of last fall has little of the havoc made here by the flood it is calculated that about tof the property of the State of Cal. has been distroid. Cattle are dying off by the Thousand from actual starvation One man went into San Francisco last week with 2000 hides that he had taken off his own cattle that had died from starvation We have not lost any cattle as yet and if we can save 25 out of 32 we shal consider our Last night we had a severe frost & should such cold selves luckey nights continue for one week longer I don't think there would be 50 head of cattle left in this Co.

& then I shal beat Unreadable just told me that the cows stock yard therefore I shal have to My little dog spot & a club or two & protect the Hay stock

Well Emma Ive got the Cows out & milked & those that wer in the stock pen I chastised most Severely. I will endevor in my next to give

you as description of the country in this vicinity & a minute description of the events which came to my notice during my travils from N. . City to my present stopping place which is a most romantic place I assure you Pleas give my respects to your Father and liether also remember me to youre Sisters & write soon & often have & I will endever to write something more interesting hereafter

Truly Yours

Orlando

Lafayette

Contra Costa

Cal



\$200. DRAFT SENT TO EMMELINE BASSETT IN NEW YORK STATE BY

OVERLAND WELLS FARGO EXPRESS, JAN. 24, 1863, FROM ORLANDO HOUGH

IN LAFAYETTE FOR HER PASSAGE VIA PANAMA TO CALIFORNIA WHERE THEY

WERE TO BE MARRIED.